

Introduced by Senator Alquist

May 10, 2005

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 47—Relative to Health Care Decisions Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 47, as introduced, Alquist. Health Care Decisions Week.

This measure would recognize the week of October 24 through 30, 2005, as Health Care Decisions Week in California, and would encourage all citizens to think and talk with loved ones about their wishes for medical care.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, It is important for people to make health care
2 decisions before they are needed; and
3 WHEREAS, Health care planning is a process, rather than a
4 single decision, that helps people think about the kind of care
5 they would want if they become seriously ill or incapacitated,
6 encourages them to talk with their loved ones and doctors, and
7 assists them in writing down their wishes; and
8 WHEREAS, Advance directives give people the ability to
9 document their wishes and identify the person to speak for them
10 should they become unable to speak for themselves; and
11 WHEREAS, Introducing these issues in community settings
12 can help people begin conversations about their health care
13 wishes with a family member, close friend, physician, or faith
14 leader; and
15 WHEREAS, California has a number of local coalitions
16 throughout the state that are working to involve individuals and

1 families in health care planning through educational forums,
2 discussion groups, speaker's bureaus, and training; and

3 WHEREAS, The California Coalition for Compassionate Care
4 and over 50 of the coalition's member organizations representing
5 health care providers, consumers, regulators, and local coalitions
6 have joined together to sponsor a weeklong focus on health care
7 decisions; now, therefore, be it

8 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
9 *thereof concurring*, That the week of October 24 through 30,
10 2005, be recognized as Health Care Decisions Week in
11 California; and be it further

12 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages all citizens to think
13 and talk with loved ones about their wishes for medical care; and
14 be it further

15 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
16 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.